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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 004252

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [IZ](#) [IT](#) [NATO](#) [IRAQI](#) [FREEDOM](#)

SUBJECT: NATO/IRAQ: ITALY OPPOSED TO CAVEATS ON NATO IRAQ MISSION, MAY INCREASE TRAINING CONTRIBUTION

REF: STATE 236268

Classified By: POL M/C Tom Countryman for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary. Pol-Mil Officers discussed reftel demarche with Giovanni Brauzzi, head of the MFA's NATO office, on November 4. Brauzzi said that Italy agrees with the principle that NATO member states should not impose national caveats on agreed NATO missions, but noted that in practical terms it would be difficult for countries who were opposed to sending their troops to Iraq to agree to provide personnel for the NATO Training Mission in Iraq (NTM-I), even under a NATO umbrella. Italy may consider increasing the number of Italian trainers in Iraq and the size of the group to be trained in Italy. End summary.

2. (C) Noting that Italy had removed all of its caveats in the Balkans and had none in Iraq, Brauzzi acknowledged that the cumulative effect of national caveats placed considerable constraints on force commanders. He said Italy was in "one hundred percent" agreement with the principle that NATO missions should not be constrained by national caveats. In the specific case of Iraq, however, it had been difficult to get full NATO agreement even for a training mission due to several member states' reluctance to see their forces involved on the ground. In practical terms it would be very difficult to convince them to lift those caveats.

3. (C) Of the specific countries that have invoked national caveats, Brauzzi cautioned us to tread softly with respect to France and Germany. He also thought Spain would be problematic, but noted that Luxembourg was seeking a more pro-Atlantic profile and might be receptive to our arguments. Brauzzi also noted that the Icelandic Foreign Minister would be in Rome soon, which might present an opportunity for Italy to raise the issue. Brauzzi will raise reftel points with MOD and senior MFA officials to see whether Italy can agree to make similar demarches with the eight countries listed.

4. (C) Regarding Italy's contributions to the NTM-I, Brauzzi said that Italy may add a few more trainers to the 15 currently in Iraq at the upcoming force generation conference. It will not, he said, supply any personnel for force protection. He also said Italy could consider enlarging the group of 60 Iraqi military and 20 civilian personnel set to receive training in Italy. Italy probably will not be able to provide equipment due to legal and financial constraints.

5. (C) Brauzzi noted that the EU is pursuing, under its European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP), a complementary initiative in Iraq in the form of a civilian mission targeting the rule of law and police training. The EU is still debating whether this mission should occur inside or outside of Iraq.

BAGHDAD MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

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